

Before Reading

BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES (PAGE 76)

ACTIVITY 1 BEFORE READING

1 No 2 Yes 3 No 4 No 5 Yes

ACTIVITY 2 BEFORE READING

Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses, but do not tell them the answer. They will find out as they read that the answer is number 4.

ACTIVITY 3 BEFORE READING

Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses, but do not tell them the answer. They will find out as they read that the answer is number 2.

While Reading

CHAPTERS 1 AND 2 WHILE READING

- 1 Because they were suspicious of all strangers and travellers, and also of clever people who could do something they themselves could not do.
- 2 Fifteen years.
- 3 Because when Silas had his unconscious fits, the minister believed that his soul was open to a possible message from God.
- 4 He was accused of stealing some church money from the room of a chapel leader while he was sitting at the man's deathbed at night.
- 5 He thought that while he was having a fit, his friend William had come into the room, stolen the money and gone away.
- 6 Because his trust in God and his friends had been broken, and he did not feel strong enough to build up that trust again, in a new church and with new friends.
- 7 He took out his gold coins from their hiding-place under the floorboards, so that he could feel them and count them again and again.
- 8 They were arguing about some money which Godfrey had lent to Dunstan, but which actually belonged to the Squire, and which Godfrey had to pay back.
- 9 That Godfrey had married a poor girl from the town, called Molly, and had married her in secret, which would make the Squire very angry.
- 10 Because the Squire would disinherit him, and Godfrey would be just a poor working man for the rest of his life. He would also lose any hope of marrying Nancy Lammeter.
- 11 By selling Godfrey's horse, Wildfire.

- 12 The horse fell while jumping a gate, broke its back, and died.
- 13 He went into Silas Marner's cottage, and when he saw Silas was not there, he stole Silas's gold.

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 3

Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses, but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that the 'yes' answers are numbers 1, 3 and 4.

CHAPTERS 3 TO 5 WHILE READING

- 1 T
- 2 F The villagers *knew* that Jem was *not* the thief.
- 3 F Godfrey cared more about *his horse* than about *Dunstan*.
- 4 T
- 5 F The Squire *wanted* Godfrey to marry Nancy.
- 6 T
- 7 T
- 8 F Dolly *did not understand* that a chapel was a kind of church.
- 9 F Silas *still* felt miserable about his stolen gold.

BEFORE READING CHAPTERS 6 AND 7

Encourage speculation and discussion, but do not tell students the answers. They will find out as they read that the answers are:

- 1 No 2 No 3 No 4 No 5 Yes 6 Yes and No (Silas finds Eppie, who becomes as important to Silas as his gold ever was.)

CHAPTERS 6 AND 7 WHILE READING

- 1 The Squire, talking about his son Godfrey and Nancy.
- 2 Godfrey, talking about Nancy.
- 3 Nancy, talking about Godfrey.
- 4 Silas, talking about Molly, Godfrey's wife.
- 5 Mrs Kimble, talking about Silas and Eppie.
- 6 Dr Kimble, talking about Molly.
- 7 Silas, talking about Eppie.
- 8 Godfrey, thinking about Eppie.
- 9 Dolly, talking about Eppie and Silas.
- 10 Godfrey, thinking about Eppie and the children he hoped to have with Nancy.

CHAPTERS 8 AND 9 WHILE READING

- 1 *What . . . ?* The death of her only baby, and the fact that she could have no more children.
- 2 *Why . . . ?* Because she believed that if God hadn't given them a child, it was because God didn't want them to have one.
- 3 *Why . . . ?* Because he couldn't be happy without a child, and he thought Eppie would have a better life with him and Nancy than with Silas.

- 4 *Why . . . ?* Because she thought she had the best father in the world already.
- 5 *What . . . ?* He was a little sad at first, but he thought Aaron was a good young man, and he wanted to think of Eppie with a strong young husband to take care of her for the rest of her life.
- 6 *What . . . ?* Dunstan's dead body, with the two bags of Silas's gold.
- 7 *Why . . . ?* Because he didn't want her to discover it from someone else, or hear about it when he was dead.
- 8 *Why . . . ?* Because she and Godfrey had had a childless marriage, when they could have been happy with a beautiful daughter, who would love Nancy as her mother.
- 9 *What . . . ?* To go and talk to Silas Marner about adopting Eppie.

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 10

Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses, but do not tell them the answers. Ask them how they would *like* the story to end. They will find out as they read that the answers are:

- 1 Eppie will decide to stay with Silas, because he's the only father she has known, and she doesn't want to leave him.
- 2 Not at all. He feels it would be like taking the heart out of his body.
- 3 Almost certainly with Silas.
- 4 No.
- 5 Yes.

After Reading

ACTIVITY 1 AFTER READING

- 1 They are talking about Molly, Godfrey's first wife, after she was found dead in the snow on New Year's Eve.
- 2 They are talking about Godfrey, just after Dunstan's dead body was found in the quarry with the stolen gold.
- 3 They are talking about Godfrey and Nancy, after Eppie's wedding to Aaron.
- 4 They are talking about Silas, Dolly and her little son Aaron, after Dolly's first visit to Silas in the weeks after the robbery.
- 5 They are talking about Silas, when he rushed into the Rainbow to ask for help on the night his gold was stolen.
- 6 They are talking about Nancy and Godfrey, just after the death of their baby.

ACTIVITY 2 AFTER READING

Possible answers:

SILAS: Now, Eppie, I've got something to give you.

EPPIE: *It's a wedding ring!*

SILAS: That's right, it's a wedding ring, and it used to belong to your mother. So it's yours now.

EPPIE: *What happened to my mother?*

SILAS: Poor woman! She died in the snow on New Year's Eve, when you were about two years old.

EPPIE: *Why did she die, father?*

SILAS: She wasn't in good health, my dear, and she'd got very tired and cold, walking in the snow.

EPPIE: *Where was I then?*

SILAS: Oh, you were with her, Eppie. When she fell down, you toddled into my cottage, and fell asleep in front of my fire. And that's how I found you!

EPPIE: *But you're my father, aren't you?*

SILAS: Well, no, Eppie, not your real father. I adopted you, you see, and you call me father, but—

EPPIE: *So who is my real father?*

SILAS: I'm afraid nobody knows, my dear. Does that make you sad?

EPPIE: *No, because I don't want any father except you. I think you're the best father in the world!*

SILAS: And I think you're the best daughter in the world, Eppie! My life has been so different since I found you – I hope nobody will ever take you away from me!

ACTIVITY 3 AFTER READING

Acceptable answers to this cloze passage are any words that have an appropriate meaning and fit the grammar of the sentence. Students might like to check each other's work and discuss alternative answers. Some alternatives are given below.

I still find it *hard* (*difficult*) to believe what has *happened*! To learn that Godfrey *has* a daughter, after all *these* years! But I thought it *was* too much to hope for. Poor Godfrey is very *disappointed* (*sad, unhappy, etc.*). He was sure the *weaver* would want Eppie to *come* to us. He just *didn't* realize it was all *too* late. Of course, it's *natural* (*understandable*) that Eppie feels more *for* the man who's looked *after* her all these years *than* for the man who's *never* recognized her as his *daughter* (*child*). If only he'd confessed *everything* to me when we *married*, or at least not *kept* it a secret for *so* long. And now I *must* get used to being *childless* until I die, with *nobody* to care for and *love*, and no grandchildren to *look* forward to. I would *be* so happy, with a *daughter* like Eppie at my *side*! But I'm fortunate to *have* a very kind husband *who* loves me. Perhaps our *marriage* (*lives*) will be happier in *future*, now that we understand *each* other better, and there *are* no secrets between *us*.

ACTIVITY 4 AFTER READING

Suggested answers:

ROBBERY AT RAVELOE

Last night two bags of gold were stolen from under the floorboards of a cottage at Raveloe. The gold belonged to a weaver called Silas Marner. Although the thief is unknown, many people are suspicious of a pedlar who had visited Raveloe recently.

WOMAN DEAD IN SNOW

On New Year's Eve a woman was found dead in the snow at Raveloe. Her name is unknown. She was wearing a wedding ring, but nobody knows who her husband is. She had a two-year-old child with her, who is safe and well. The local weaver, who found the child, is planning to adopt her.

BODY FOUND IN QUARRY

Yesterday, during work on draining the Squire's fields near Raveloe, the body of a young man was found at the bottom of the old quarry. The man has been recognized as Dunstan Cass, brother of Squire Godfrey Cass, because of the watch and rings found on the body. Next to the body were the two bags of gold stolen from the local weaver's cottage sixteen years ago. It is clear that Dunstan Cass, who disappeared sixteen years ago, was the thief.

WEDDING AT RAVELOE

Last week Eppie Marner, adopted daughter of Silas Marner the weaver, and Aaron Winthrop, son of Mrs Dolly Winthrop, were married at Raveloe church. The Squire's wife, Nancy Cass, kindly paid for the bride's dress, and the Squire himself paid for the wedding lunch. The young couple will live with Eppie's father in his cottage.

ACTIVITY 5 AFTER READING

Open answers. Encourage discussion of students' personal views on these topics.